

SOUTHERN FIRST BANCSHARES INC
Form SC 13G
September 12, 2014

UNITED STATES
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
Washington, D.C. 20549

SCHEDULE 13G

Under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934

Southern First Bancshares, Inc.
(Name of Issuer)

Common Stock, \$0.01 par value
(Title of Class of Securities)

842873101
(CUSIP Number)

January 27, 2014
(Date of Event which Requires Filing of this Statement)

Check the appropriate box to designate the rule pursuant to which this Schedule is filed:

☐ Rule 13d-1(b)

☒ Rule 13d-1(c)

☐ Rule 13d-1(d)

* The remainder of this cover page shall be filled out for a reporting person's initial filing on this form with respect to the subject class of securities, and for any subsequent amendment containing information which would alter disclosures provided in a prior cover page.

The information required in the remainder of this cover page shall not be deemed to be "filed" for the purpose of Section 18 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 ("Act") or otherwise subject to the liabilities of that section of the Act but shall be subject to all other provisions of the Act (however, see the Notes).

CUSIP No. 842873101

13G

1 NAMES OF REPORTING PERSONS

I.R.S. IDENTIFICATION NOS. OF ABOVE PERSONS (ENTITIES ONLY)

EJF Capital LLC

2 CHECK THE APPROPRIATE BOX IF A MEMBER OF A GROUP (SEE INSTRUCTIONS) (a) ☒ (b) ☐

3 SEC USE ONLY

4 CITIZENSHIP OR PLACE OF ORGANIZATION

Delaware

NUMBER OF 5 SOLE VOTING POWER
SHARES

0

BENEFICIALLY 6 SHARED VOTING POWER
OWNED BY

475,000

EACH 7 SOLE DISPOSITIVE POWER
REPORTING

0

PERSON 8 SHARED DISPOSITIVE POWER
WITH

475,000

9 AGGREGATE AMOUNT BENEFICIALLY OWNED BY EACH REPORTING PERSON

475,000

10 CHECK IF THE AGGREGATE AMOUNT IN ROW (9) EXCLUDES CERTAIN SHARES (SEE INSTRUCTIONS) ☐

11 PERCENT OF CLASS REPRESENTED BY AMOUNT IN ROW (9)

9.8% (1)

12 TYPE OF REPORTING PERSON (SEE INSTRUCTIONS)

IA

(1)Based on 4,829,514 shares of common stock outstanding as of July 31, 2014, as disclosed in the Issuer's Form 10-Q filed with the SEC on August 4, 2014.

CUSIP No. 842873101

13G

1 NAMES OF REPORTING PERSONS

I.R.S. IDENTIFICATION NOS. OF ABOVE PERSONS (ENTITIES ONLY)

Emanuel J. Friedman

2 CHECK THE APPROPRIATE BOX IF A MEMBER OF A GROUP (SEE INSTRUCTIONS) (a) ☒ (b) ☐

3 SEC USE ONLY

4 CITIZENSHIP OR PLACE OF ORGANIZATION

United States

NUMBER OF 5 SOLE VOTING POWER
SHARES

0

BENEFICIALLY 6 SHARED VOTING POWER
OWNED BY

475,000

EACH 7 SOLE DISPOSITIVE POWER
REPORTING

0

PERSON 8 SHARED DISPOSITIVE POWER
WITH

475,000

9 AGGREGATE AMOUNT BENEFICIALLY OWNED BY EACH REPORTING PERSON

475,000

10 CHECK IF THE AGGREGATE AMOUNT IN ROW (9) EXCLUDES CERTAIN SHARES (SEE INSTRUCTIONS) ☐

11 PERCENT OF CLASS REPRESENTED BY AMOUNT IN ROW (9)

9.8% (1)

12 TYPE OF REPORTING PERSON (SEE INSTRUCTIONS)

IN

(1)Based on 4,829,514 shares of common stock outstanding as of July 31, 2014, as disclosed in the Issuer's Form 10-Q filed with the SEC on August 4, 2014.

CUSIP No. 842873101

13G

1 NAMES OF REPORTING PERSONS

I.R.S. IDENTIFICATION NOS. OF ABOVE PERSONS (ENTITIES ONLY)

EJF Financial Services Fund, LP

2 CHECK THE APPROPRIATE BOX IF A MEMBER OF A GROUP (SEE INSTRUCTIONS)

(a) x

(b) o

3 SEC USE ONLY

4 CITIZENSHIP OR PLACE OF ORGANIZATION

Delaware

NUMBER OF 5 SOLE VOTING POWER
SHARES

0

BENEFICIALLY 6 SHARED VOTING POWER
OWNED BY

407,123

EACH 7 SOLE DISPOSITIVE POWER
REPORTING

0

PERSON 8 SHARED DISPOSITIVE POWER
WITH

407,123

9 AGGREGATE AMOUNT BENEFICIALLY OWNED BY EACH REPORTING PERSON

407,123

10 CHECK IF THE AGGREGATE AMOUNT IN ROW (9) EXCLUDES CERTAIN SHARES (SEE INSTRUCTIONS) o

11 PERCENT OF CLASS REPRESENTED BY AMOUNT IN ROW (9)

8.4% (1)

12 TYPE OF REPORTING PERSON (SEE INSTRUCTIONS)

PN

(1)Based on 4,829,514 shares of common stock outstanding as of July 31, 2014, as disclosed in the Issuer's Form 10-Q filed with the SEC on August 4, 2014.

CUSIP No. 842873101

13G

1 NAMES OF REPORTING PERSONS

I.R.S. IDENTIFICATION NOS. OF ABOVE PERSONS (ENTITIES ONLY)

EJF Financial Services GP, LLC

2 CHECK THE APPROPRIATE BOX IF A MEMBER OF A GROUP (SEE INSTRUCTIONS)

(a) x

(b) o

3 SEC USE ONLY

4 CITIZENSHIP OR PLACE OF ORGANIZATION

Delaware

NUMBER OF 5 SOLE VOTING POWER
SHARES

0

BENEFICIALLY 6 SHARED VOTING POWER
OWNED BY

407,123

EACH 7 SOLE DISPOSITIVE POWER
REPORTING

0

PERSON 8 SHARED DISPOSITIVE POWER
WITH

407,123

9 AGGREGATE AMOUNT BENEFICIALLY OWNED BY EACH REPORTING PERSON

407,123

10 CHECK IF THE AGGREGATE AMOUNT IN ROW (9) EXCLUDES CERTAIN SHARES (SEE INSTRUCTIONS) o

11 PERCENT OF CLASS REPRESENTED BY AMOUNT IN ROW (9)

8.4% (1)

12 TYPE OF REPORTING PERSON (SEE INSTRUCTIONS)

OO

(1)Based on 4,829,514 shares of common stock outstanding as of July 31, 2014, as disclosed in the Issuer's Form 10-Q filed with the SEC on August 4, 2014.

CUSIP No. 842873101

13G

1 NAMES OF REPORTING PERSONS

I.R.S. IDENTIFICATION NOS. OF ABOVE PERSONS (ENTITIES ONLY)

EJF Financial Opportunities Master Fund, LP

2 CHECK THE APPROPRIATE BOX IF A MEMBER OF A (a) x
GROUP (SEE INSTRUCTIONS) (b) o

3 SEC USE ONLY

4 CITIZENSHIP OR PLACE OF ORGANIZATION

Cayman Islands

NUMBER OF 5 SOLE VOTING POWER
SHARES

0

BENEFICIALLY 6 SHARED VOTING POWER
OWNED BY

67,877

EACH 7 SOLE DISPOSITIVE POWER
REPORTING

0

PERSON 8 SHARED DISPOSITIVE POWER
WITH

67,877

9 AGGREGATE AMOUNT BENEFICIALLY OWNED BY EACH REPORTING PERSON

67,877

10 CHECK IF THE AGGREGATE AMOUNT IN ROW (9) EXCLUDES CERTAIN SHARES (SEE
INSTRUCTIONS) o

11 PERCENT OF CLASS REPRESENTED BY AMOUNT IN ROW (9)

1.4% (1)

12 TYPE OF REPORTING PERSON (SEE INSTRUCTIONS)

PN

(1) Based on 4,829,514 shares of common stock outstanding as of July 31, 2014, as disclosed in the Issuer's Form 10-Q filed with the SEC on August 4, 2014.

CUSIP No. 842873101

13G

1 NAMES OF REPORTING PERSONS

I.R.S. IDENTIFICATION NOS. OF ABOVE PERSONS (ENTITIES ONLY)

EJF Financial Opportunities GP, LLC

- 2 CHECK THE APPROPRIATE BOX IF A MEMBER OF A GROUP (SEE INSTRUCTIONS) (a) ☒ (b) ☐

3 SEC USE ONLY

4 CITIZENSHIP OR PLACE OF ORGANIZATION

Delaware

NUMBER OF 5 SOLE VOTING POWER
SHARES

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OWNED BY

67,877

EACH 7 SOLE DISPOSITIVE POWER
REPORTING

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WITH

67,877

9 AGGREGATE AMOUNT BENEFICIALLY OWNED BY EACH REPORTING PERSON

67,877

10 CHECK IF THE AGGREGATE AMOUNT IN ROW (9) EXCLUDES CERTAIN SHARES (SEE INSTRUCTIONS) ☐

11 PERCENT OF CLASS REPRESENTED BY AMOUNT IN ROW (9)

1.4% (1)

12 TYPE OF REPORTING PERSON (SEE INSTRUCTIONS)

OO

(1)Based on 4,829,514 shares of common stock outstanding as of July 31, 2014, as disclosed in the Issuer's Form 10-Q filed with the SEC on August 4, 2014.

Item 1. (a) Name of Issuer

Southern First Bancshares, Inc.

Item 1. (b) Address of Issuer's Principal Executive Offices

100 Verdae Boulevard
Greenville, SC 29607

Item 2. (a) Name of Person Filing

This Schedule 13G is being filed on behalf of the following persons (the "Reporting Persons")*:

- (i) EJP Capital LLC;
- (ii) Emanuel J. Friedman;
- (iii) EJP Financial Services Fund, LP;
- (iv) EJP Financial Services GP, LLC;
- (v) EJP Financial Opportunities Master Fund, LP; and
- (vi) EJP Financial Opportunities GP, LLC.

*Attached as Exhibit A is a copy of an agreement among the Reporting Persons that this Schedule 13G is being filed on behalf of each of them.

Item 2. (b) Address of Principal Business Office or, if None, Residence

EJP Capital LLC
2107 Wilson Boulevard
Suite 410
Arlington, VA 22201

Emanuel J. Friedman
2107 Wilson Boulevard
Suite 410
Arlington, VA 22201

EJP Financial Services Fund, LP
2107 Wilson Boulevard
Suite 410
Arlington, VA 22201

EJP Financial Services GP, LLC
2107 Wilson Boulevard
Suite 410
Arlington, VA 22201

EJP Financial Opportunities Master Fund, LP
2107 Wilson Boulevard
Suite 410
Arlington, VA 22201

EJF Financial Opportunities GP, LLC
2107 Wilson Boulevard
Suite 410
Arlington, VA 22201

Item 2. (c) Citizenship

See Item 4 of the attached cover pages.

Item 2. (d) Title of Class of Securities

Common Stock, \$0.01 par value ("Common Stock")

Item 2. (e) CUSIP Number

842873101

Item 3. If This Statement is Filed Pursuant to Rule 13d-1(b), or 13d-2(b) or (c), Check Whether the Person Filing is a:

Not Applicable.

Item 4. Ownership

(a) Amount beneficially owned:

See Item 9 of the attached cover pages.

(b) Percent of class:

See Item 11 of the attached cover pages.

(c) Number of shares as to which such person has:

(i) Sole power to vote or to direct the vote:

See Item 5 of the attached cover pages.

(ii) Shared power to vote or to direct the vote:

See Item 6 of the attached cover pages.

(iii) Sole power to dispose or to direct the disposition:

See Item 7 of the attached cover pages.

(iv) Shared power to dispose or to direct the disposition:

See Item 8 of the attached cover pages.

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Each of EJF Financial Services Fund, LP and EJF Financial Opportunities Master Fund, LP is the record owner of the shares of Common Stock shown on item 9 of its respective cover page.

EJF Financial Services GP, LLC serves as the general partner and investment manager of EJF Financial Services Fund, LP and may be deemed to share beneficial ownership of the shares of Common Stock of which EJF Financial Services Fund, LP is the record owner. EJF Financial Opportunities GP, LLC serves as the general partner of EJF Financial Opportunities Master Fund, LP and may be deemed to share beneficial ownership of the shares of Common Stock of which EJF Financial Opportunities Master Fund, LP is the record owner.

EJF Capital LLC is the sole member and manager of each of EJF Financial Services GP, LLC and EJF Financial Opportunities GP, LLC, and may be deemed to share beneficial ownership of the shares of Common Stock of which such entities may share beneficial ownership. EJF Capital LLC also serves as the investment manager of EJF Financial Opportunities Master Fund, LP and may be deemed to share beneficial ownership of the shares of Common Stock of which EJF Financial Opportunities Master Fund, LP is the record owner. Emanuel J. Friedman is the controlling member of EJF Capital LLC and may be deemed to share beneficial ownership of the shares of Common Stock over which EJF Capital LLC may share beneficial ownership.

Item 5. Ownership of Five Percent or Less of a Class

Not Applicable.

Item 6. Ownership of More than Five Percent on Behalf of Another Person

See Item 4.

Item 7. Identification and Classification of the Subsidiary Which Acquired the Security Being Reported on by the Parent Holding Company

Not Applicable.

Item 8. Identification and Classification of Members of the Group

The filing persons may be deemed to be members of a group.

Item 9. Notice of Dissolution of Group

Not Applicable.

Item 10. Certification

By signing below I certify that, to the best of my knowledge and belief, the securities referred to above were not acquired and are not held for the purpose of or with the effect of changing or influencing the control of the issuer of the securities and were not acquired and are not held in connection with or as a participant in any transaction having that purpose or effect, other than activities solely in connection with a nomination under Section 240.14a-11.

SIGNATURE

After reasonable inquiry and to the best of my knowledge and belief, I certify that the information set forth in this statement is true, complete and correct.

Dated: September 12, 2014

EJF CAPITAL LLC

By: /s/ Neal J. Wilson
Name: Neal J. Wilson
Title: Chief Operating Officer

EMANUEL J. FRIEDMAN

By: /s/ Emanuel J. Friedman
Name: Emanuel J. Friedman

EJF FINANCIAL SERVICES FUND, LP

By: EJF FINANCIAL SERVICES GP, LLC
Its: General Partner

By: EJF CAPITAL LLC
Its: Sole Managing Member

By: /s/ Neal J. Wilson
Name: Neal J. Wilson
Title: Chief Operating Officer

EJF FINANCIAL SERVICES GP, LLC

By: EJF CAPITAL LLC
Its: Sole Managing Member

By: /s/ Neal J. Wilson
Name: Neal J. Wilson
Title: Chief Operating Officer

EJF FINANCIAL OPPORTUNITIES MASTER FUND, LP

By: EJF FINANCIAL OPPORTUNITIES GP, LLC
Its: General Partner

By: EJF CAPITAL LLC
Its: Sole Managing Member

By: /s/ Neal J. Wilson
Name: Neal J. Wilson
Title: Chief Operating Officer

EJF FINANCIAL OPPORTUNITIES GP, LLC

By: EJF CAPITAL LLC
Its: Sole Managing Member

By: /s/ Neal J. Wilson
Name: Neal J. Wilson
Title: Chief Operating Officer

EXHIBIT A

The undersigned, EJF Capital LLC, a Delaware limited liability company, Emanuel J. Friedman, EJF Financial Services Fund, LP, a Delaware limited partnership, EJF Financial Services GP, LLC, a Delaware limited liability company, EJF Financial Opportunities Master Fund, LP, an exempted limited partnership organized under the laws of the Cayman Islands, and EJF Financial Opportunities GP, LLC, a Delaware limited liability company, hereby agree and acknowledge that the information required by this Schedule 13G, to which this Agreement is attached as an exhibit, is filed on behalf of each of them. The undersigned further agree that any further amendments or supplements thereto shall also be filed on behalf of each of them.

Dated: September 12, 2014

EJF CAPITAL LLC

By: /s/ Neal J. Wilson
Name: Neal J. Wilson
Title: Chief Operating Officer

EMANUEL J. FRIEDMAN

By: /s/ Emanuel J. Friedman
Name: Emanuel J. Friedman

EJF FINANCIAL SERVICES FUND, LP

By: EJF FINANCIAL SERVICES GP, LLC
Its: General Partner

By: EJF CAPITAL LLC
Its: Sole Managing Member

By: /s/ Neal J. Wilson
Name: Neal J. Wilson
Title: Chief Operating Officer

EJF FINANCIAL SERVICES GP, LLC

By: EJF CAPITAL LLC
Its: Sole Managing Member

By: /s/ Neal J. Wilson
Name: Neal J. Wilson
Title: Chief Operating Officer

EJF FINANCIAL OPPORTUNITIES MASTER FUND, LP

By: EJJ FINANCIAL OPPORTUNITIES GP, LLC
Its: General Partner

By: EJJ CAPITAL LLC
Its: Sole Managing Member

By: /s/ Neal J. Wilson
Name: Neal J. Wilson
Title: Chief Operating Officer

EJJ FINANCIAL OPPORTUNITIES GP, LLC

By: EJJ CAPITAL LLC
Its: Sole Managing Member

By: /s/ Neal J. Wilson
Name: Neal J. Wilson
Title: Chief Operating Officer